

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Singeltary-Reese-Robinson House

Laurel Park, Henderson County, HN0240, Listed 9/16/2010
Nomination by Sybil Argintar
Photographs by Sybil Argintar, April 2009



Front view



Rear view with addition

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

other names/site number Woodlawn

street & number 211 Robinson Lane not for publication N/A
city or town Laurel Park vicinity N/A
state North Carolina code NC county Henderson code 089 zip code 28739

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official	Date
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North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official	Date
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State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

_____ entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet.

_____ determined eligible for the
National Register

See continuation sheet.

_____ determined not eligible for the
National Register

_____ removed from the National Register

_____ other (explain): _____

Singeltary-Reese-Robinson House
Name of Property

Henderson County, North Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

 X private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

 X building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>domestic</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>domestic</u>	<u>secondary structure</u>

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>domestic</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>domestic</u>	<u>secondary structure</u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rustic Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

roof fiberglass shingle

walls log

weatherboard

other stone

metal

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Singeltary-Reese-Robinson House
Name of Property

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ B removed from its original location.

☐ C a birthplace or a grave.

☐ D a cemetery.

☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ F a commemorative property.

☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1912

Significant Dates

1912

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: Western Office, Archives and History

Singeltary-Reese-Robinson House
Name of Property

Henderson County, North Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 15.32 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing
1 17 363500 3908400
2 17 363900 3908410

Zone Easting Northing
3 17 363940 3908250
4 17 363570 3908190
____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sybil H. Argintar, Preservation Planning Consultant

organization Southeastern Preservation Services date November 16, 2009

street & number 166 Pearson Drive telephone (828) 230-3773

city or town Asheville state NC zip code 28801

12. Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Roberta Robinson Reinert and Price Lewis Reinert

street & number 211 Robinson Lane telephone (828) 693-4476

city or town Hendersonville state NC zip code 28739

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Singeltary-Reese-Robinson House
Henderson County, North Carolina

Summary

The 1912 Singeltary-Reese-Robinson House, also known as 'Woodlawn' is a two-story Rustic Revival log house located in the town of Laurel Park, Henderson County, western North Carolina, approximately four miles to the west of the county seat of downtown Hendersonville. Echo Mountain, where Laurel Park is located, rises a thousand feet above the town of Hendersonville and ends abruptly at its western terminus in a rocky promontory, called Jump Off Rock. A spectacular view unfolds of the valleys and mountain ranges to the west, north, and south. Set on the southern slope of Echo Mountain, the Singeltary-Reese-Robinson House is sheltered on the north and south by forest, with an open lawn area to the east and west. Robinson Lane runs in an east-west direction north of the house. The site slopes down to the south of Robinson Lane, with a driveway which winds down the hill along the west side of the house. To the south of the house and below it in elevation are a creek and natural artesian spring reached by a stepping stone path. To the southeast of the house and slightly down the hill is a stone retaining wall, with some remnants of terracing below it which slope down to the creek below. The area outside of the nominated property consists of single family homes on wooded lots.

To the northeast of the house is a 1932 two-story frame garage apartment, and to the west is a nineteenth-century log spring house, moved north in the 1930s from its original location at the spring. Farther down Robinson Lane, to the northeast of the main house, is a barn constructed of logs from the original 1837 cabin on the property. Attached to the south wall of the rear of the house by a covered connector, is a 2002 one-story-on-basement addition with the garage and office in the basement set at a lower elevation than the house.

The landscape of the property is one of its most notable features. Mr. and Mrs. Singeltary planted a grape vineyard and cherry trees in the 1910s which were cultivated until the 1950s. Reverend Reese, the second owner, planted many apple and cherry trees in 1913. After World War II, having not been there from 1941 to 1946, the Robinson family, who purchased the property in 1932, returned home to find woods had taken over the apple and cherry orchards.¹ These were not restored. However, Dr. Robinson plowed broad terraces on the south side of the house a half of a mile long in 1946 to prevent soil erosion. These terraces, located south of the original stone wall at the rear of the property, are still visible. Many trees and English boxwoods have been planted since that time including more apple, cherry, plum and peach trees, Chinese chestnuts and a river birch. Tulip poplars, southern pine, black walnut, black locust, flowering dogwoods, rhododendron, and mountain laurel were prevalent and continue to be abundant on the property. Dr. Robinson, a math professor, cultivated the boxwoods and planted them in geometrical designs which are no longer discernible. A tulip polar tree, located near the springhouse, is 13.5' in circumference. There are numerous raspberry, blackberry and Rose of Sharon bushes on the property, with the berries still enjoyed during the summer time.

¹ Dr. Robinson a reserve Army officer, was sent in 1941 to the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York where he taught mathematics to the cadets. He continued to serve in this capacity until 1946.

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Native wildflowers such as daffodils, sweet peas, day lilies, daisies, and Queen Anne's lace continue to thrive during the summer months.

Singeltary-Reese-Robinson House. Contributing. 1912. Alterations and additions 1920s, 1930s, 1950s, 2002.

Facing east, the Singeltary-Reese-Robinson House, built in 1912 and one of the earliest homes built in Laurel Park, is a L-form two-story house with a two-story rear wing addition. The round pole log house, 1,542 square feet in size, has a cross-gable roof, exposed rafter ends, partially-enclosed wraparound porch, an exterior end stone chimney, and one-over-one and casement windows with simple two-inch by six-inch unadorned surrounds. Joseph Kirkland (also known as Kirkland) Singeltary, the original owner of the house, chose a style and construction method for the 1912 log house that was characteristic of mountain summer homes built in the early twentieth century with its use of round saddle-notched logs with concrete chinking, steep gable roofs, exposed rafters and beaded tongue-and-grooved paneling throughout the interior. When Kirkland Singeltary purchased the twenty acres of land originally associated with the house in 1911, he inherited an old burned-down log house with a massive stone chimney. The date '1837' was carved on the chimney; however the date is not legible now due to deterioration.² Mr. Singeltary built the 1912 log house using the same stone foundation wall of the original burned-down log house, and incorporating the massive stone chimney. The round logs, squared off at the top and bottom, are chinked with concrete and the corners are saddle-notched. These round logs remain exposed on the exterior and in the enclosed porches. The log walls rise to approximately five feet above the second floor, supporting roof rafters, which slope at a 10-in-12 pitch. Gable ends are sheathed in lapped weatherboard siding and soffits are flush boards. The roof originally was covered with wood shingles, later replaced by tin, then by asphalt shingles in the 1950s. In the 2002 rehabilitation of the house, the asphalt shingles were replaced with fiberglass shingles. Windows are one-over-one and casement. Flanking the rear wing, the kitchen, with a footprint of thirteen by thirteen feet, was added to the southwest corner of the house ca. 1920, and the bath at the northwest corner was added in 1922, replacing a porch which was originally in this location. Isorah Reese, the nineteen-year-old daughter of the Reverend Arcemus V. Reese who was living in the house at that time, wrote a letter dated May 29, 1922 to her brother, Zollar Reese, who lived in Birmingham, Alabama. She stated that there were "six men working all last week building a septic tank to put in a bathroom in the home. It will cost \$250.00 and there is 'cement' on the inside."³ The bathroom entrance directly off of the porch was characteristic of summer homes in this region. An original cast iron claw-footed tub, the lavatory, and a toilet were placed in the bathroom in 1922. In the late 1980's, the bathroom floor and walls around the bathtub were covered with ceramic tiles due to water damage.

² Letter written by Roberta Videtto Robinson to Dr. Tice, State of North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Western Office, August 14, 1980. Also Singeltary, Joseph Kirkland Jr. Interviews by Roberta Reinert, August 29, 1999; September 29, 2005; June 3, 2008; and June 27, 2009.

³ Thompson, Joanne Reese. Interview by Roberta Reinert April 17, 2009.

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The hip-roof wraparound porch on the east and south sides of the house is original to the 1912 house, but by 1937 had been screened on the east, with the south side enclosed with vertical siding and casement windows to create a sleeping porch. At the same time, one window along the north wall of the sleeping porch was converted to a door. The breakfast nook to the west of the kitchen was added in the 1950s, and a two-story addition, designed by restoration specialist and architect John Horton, was completed in 2002 (see Exhibit A, floor plan). In 1986 the front porch floor was renovated due to rotting boards, and new log posts, screens, and tongue-and-groove board walls were replaced in-kind to replace rotted elements. At the same time, on the sleeping porch, the floor was replaced in-kind. Also in 1986, the stone pier foundation under the porch was replaced with concrete blocks and stone and the casement windows on the sleeping porch were replaced by double hung windows. The kitchen, the bathroom, and the 2002 addition are all sheathed in German siding.

Beginning with the east or facade, the house is three bays wide on the first floor, consisting of, from south to north, a double window, a door into the living room, and a single window. On the second floor there are two double casement windows. The hip roof and screened porch covers the exterior wall on the first floor. There is a root cellar underneath the porch. The north elevation of the house, from east to west, consists of two bays, the single shoulder stone chimney with regular coursing in an unfenestrated wall, and the door and window of the added bath, attached to the side wall of the rear wing. The west elevation of the house is three bays wide on the first floor, from north to south consisting of single windows. The southernmost window is located in the added breakfast nook projecting to the west. The second floor on this elevation is two bays, a double window on the north and a single window on the south. The south elevation of the first floor of the house is three bays, from west to east including two single windows and a door and window bay onto the sleeping porch. The second floor is three bays, from west to east include two single windows and one double window. The screened sleeping porch obscures the first floor of the south wall, and the addition projects to the south on this wall.

The one-story-on-basement addition is clearly differentiated from the main house by an enclosed twelve-foot walkway, with a two-car garage and office below, and by the fact that it sits lower in elevation than the original house, stepping down the hillside. The addition, with a cross-gable roof, is two bays wide on the west side, consisting from north to south of a band of windows in the connector and a double window. At the basement on the west side is a single bay consisting of a two-car garage with a shed roof. The south elevation consists of a single bay with French doors with transom lights opening onto a wood deck on the upper story, with a single metal door into the basement below. The east elevation is three bays wide on the upper level, consisting of, from south to north, two single one-over-one windows and a multi-light door flanked by one-over-one windows opening onto a wood deck. New stone steps lead down from this deck into the terraced lawn below. At the basement level on the east elevation, there are two single window bays. The north elevation of the addition is connected to the main house by the covered walkway.

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Singeltary-Reese-Robinson House
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The original house is an L-shape floor plan, with additions as noted above (see Exhibit A, floor plan). The first floor consists of the living room, dining room in the rear wing, bath, and kitchen with breakfast nook. The six-horizontal-panel doors throughout the log house are original. The floors, with the exception of the dining room, are yellow pine. Salvaged from the earlier burned-out log house, the wide chestnut wood boards, originally on the ceiling of the old cabin, were flipped over and used for the dining room floor. The whitewashed face of the boards is visible from the crawl space beneath the house. Originally, all interior walls were exposed log, as on the exterior. Shortly after 1932 the original interior walls, with the exception of the porches, were covered over with beaded tongue-and-groove boards. The beaded boards can be seen on the inside and outside of the built-in corner cupboard located in the dining room, in the downstairs bathroom, in the upstairs bedroom closets, and on the beaded board ceilings. Living room and kitchen walls are sheetrock, and the dining room walls are covered with beaverboard, a change made in the 1930s. On the north wall of the living room is an ashlar granite mantel, approximately eight feet long, five feet high, and nine inches deep, with a two-inch-thick mantel shelf of heart pine. The hearth is tile.

The narrow wooden staircase, with unadorned painted two-by-two balusters, unpainted pine banister, simple six-by-six pine posts, and pine treads, is located in the southwest corner of the living room and leads to three bedrooms opening off of a hallway on the second floor of the original section of the house. Ceilings on the second floor slope steeply from the low outside walls making the room height slightly less than seven feet. In the late 1930s the bedroom walls were covered with beaverboard, closets were added, and a half bath was carved out of the west bedroom. A cast iron lavatory and a toilet were placed in this bathroom. The bedroom walls have been covered with gypsum board paneling in the 1930s.

Inside the addition there is a master bedroom, bath, closet, and laundry room. The connector hallway walls are sheetrock, floors are pine and the ceiling is unpainted bead board. To the west of the hallway is a wood staircase leading to the lower level. The bedroom has a cathedral ceiling covered with bead board, walls are sheetrock and floors are pine as in the connector.

Spring. Contributing Structure. 1912.

The spring on the property played an important role in the daily lives of ancient inhabitants, Indians, and early settlers. It has provided water to the residents from the time the house was built until the present day.⁴ Mr. Reese installed a pump for the artesian spring water to be piped to the house.⁵ In the late 1950's, Henderson County piped one half of the spring's water flow to use as the county's main water source. The spring water is tested periodically and continues to supply pure cold drinking water at the present time. Stepping stones lead down the hill to the

⁴ Singeltary, Joseph Kirkland Jr. Interviews by Roberta Reinert, August 29, 1999; September 29, 2005; June 3, 2008; and June 27, 2009. The location of the spring is indicated on a 1927 Henderson County map.

⁵ Thompson, Joanne Reese. Interview by Roberta Reinert April 17, 2009.

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creek and spring below the house. A metal pipe projects out from a two-tiered concrete structure capped by granite slabs, with a constant flow of water into the creek. The spring, located 163 feet from the house, produces thirty gallons of water per minute.⁶

Springhouse. Contributing building. Mid-nineteenth century. Moved 1930s.

This one-story, side-gable-roof square log structure with a flush board door and a square window opening on the east side, was built around the same time as the original 1837 log cabin. It originally sat further down the hill, closer to the location of the spring, approximately 150' from the house. Originally the roof was made of wood shingles that are still visible on the inside. In the 1930s a tin roof was placed over the shingles. The springhouse was moved to its present location in the 1930s. The square hewn logs are chinked with cement and mortar.⁷ Food was stored in the springhouse including meat held up by pegs, milk, and other perishables.⁸ After it was moved it served as a playhouse for the children.

Garage Apartment. Non-contributing building. 1932. Addition 1958.

This two-story frame garage with a front-gable roof and stone foundation was constructed in 1932 and is located east of the house, very close to the south side of the road. The one-car garage is sheathed in German siding and the double leaf garage doors are made of flush boards. The room above the garage was used as housing for the live-in maid. Windows are two-over-one casement, with one-over-one storm windows. Exterior wooden stairs lead up the east side to a small guest room. A frame shed-roof one-story addition with a concrete foundation and board and batten siding was built in 1958 on the south side as a one-bedroom guest apartment with a half bath. A shed-roof hood supported by diagonal braces covers the door to the addition on the west side.

Barn. Contributing building. 1912.

Built of charred dove-tail-notched hand-planed logs from the 1837 log cabin on the property, this one-story building has a front gable roof, covered with standing-seam metal, exposed rafter ends, and double leaf vertical board doors with cross members. Gable ends are horizontal boards. It originally was used to house a cow and two horses owned by J. K. Singeltary.

⁶ The location of the spring was a key factor for the early inhabitants of the area, the Indians, and the settlers. There is evidence that ancient man, prehistoric Indians, the Creek and Cherokee Indians and settlers lived and hunted on this land. To date, many arrowheads, spear-heads, a stone mauls, a hide scraper, a stone hoe, and a stone ax have been discovered, near and around the spring. The relics have been authenticated by an archeologist as well as arrowhead collectors. The oldest ones have been dated to be from the Paleo Period (10,000 to 8,000 B. C.) Notes from Peck, Rodney M. *Indian Projectile Point: Types from Virginia and the Carolinas*. Rodney M. Peck: 1982, pp 7-27.

⁷ Fischer, Marion Singeltary. Interview with Marion Hinson Mitchell, her niece, April 2002.

⁸ Thompson, Joanne Reese. Interview by Roberta Reinert April 17, 2009.

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Singeltary-Reese-Robinson House
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Cook Hearth. Non-contributing object. 1930s.

This triangular-shape cook hearth is built of granite slabs with a small rectangular opening near the top and a larger opening at the bottom for the fire wood. The current owner's grandmother, Roberta Howard Videtto, had the cook hearth built in the early 1930s.

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Henderson County, North Carolina**Summary**

The Singeltary-Reese-Robinson House meets National Register Criterion C for architecture. The log house was built in 1912 in the Laurel Park resort community near Hendersonville, North Carolina. An early example of the Rustic Revival style, the notched-log seasonal residence exhibits the distinctive characteristics of the style, and is of local significance. The Rustic Revival style, a style seen in mountain resort communities in the western part of the state, saw its height of popularity beginning in the late 1910s and continuing through the 1920s and early 1930s. The house incorporates many of the design elements of the style including round logs chinked with concrete, the stone foundation, chimney and mantelpiece, and simple unadorned window surrounds. Two log outbuildings also contribute to the consciously-planned rustic character of the property. The Singeltarys deliberately re-used square hewn logs from the burned-out 1837 log cabin on the site when they constructed the 1912 log barn. They also retained an older log springhouse, which was later in the 1930s moved up the hill by Dr. Robinson to stand next to the 1912 house.

Historic Background

The late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries in Hendersonville, North Carolina proved a tremendous boom time for speculative residential real estate development, as it did in many towns in western North Carolina. The climate, the scenic beauty, and, most importantly, the arrival of the railroad served to make the mountains much more accessible not only to tourists but to permanent residents as well. Once the railroad arrived, nationally popular building styles and the materials to construct them became more readily available, but many summer residents also delighted in using locally available materials including stone, logs, and shingles for constructing mountain homes that fit in with the beautiful scenery. As the population of both year-round and summer residents began to grow, the need for housing became a top priority, providing new opportunities for many entrepreneurial real estate developers. As the automobile gained in popularity in the early twentieth century, additional opportunities arose for building homes further away from the core downtown area, creating true "suburbs". The west side of downtown Hendersonville developed early, with many farms being subdivided to meet the growing need for housing as the population grew.⁹ Outside of Hendersonville, additional resort and subdivision developments, including Laurel Park, began to appear, first drawing more summer residents and later permanent residents to the area.

Often, the initial purchasers of the lots from the developers of these resorts and subdivisions were not the builders of the houses, but smaller investors who bought lots for purposes of a quick re-sale to those who later did in fact build the first homes. The goal for many was to "...sell at a profit before the next payment was due..."¹⁰ A few of these subdivisions developed as platted, but others, especially those that began in the late 1920s after the economic bust, often had only roads laid out, but no houses built until after World War II or later.

⁹Mattson, Alexander and Associates, Inc., "History and Architecture of Hendersonville, North Carolina", December 16, 1996, p. 15.

¹⁰"The Summer of 1925", Times-News, 15 January 1976.

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Singeltary-Reese-Robinson House
Henderson County, North Carolina

During Henderson County's boom time in the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries, many resort communities developed, and Laurel Park was part of this development pattern. As early as the 1890s, W. A. Smith, a Hendersonville attorney and real estate dealer, along with Hendersonville resident James M. Waldrop, began to develop plans for Laurel Park Estate, a resort community. In 1903, Smith established a rail line from Main Street in downtown Hendersonville west on Fifth Avenue to Rainbow Lake, the first area of his development to be built. This line, known as the "dummy line" because it was not able to turn around, continued to operate until 1912.¹¹ It was not until March of 1909, however, that the plans for Laurel Park Estate were formally drawn up and further developed. Plans included a 200-acre development with curvilinear roads and house lots, a dam, two lakes, a two-acre island covered with rhododendron, a dance pavilion (Laurel Park Villa), and a canal connecting the two lakes, named Rhododendron and Rainbow.¹² By the fall of 1909, the second lake had been completed and the canal built.¹³ Laurel Park Estate continued to develop throughout the early 1900's with the construction of several substantial summer homes.¹⁴ This initial section of Laurel Park comprised only the northeast corner of what was later developed. On August 25, 1924 Laurel Park Estates was chartered as a North Carolina Corporation, and re-platted in 1927 as an exclusive residential area much larger than the initial development. Laurel Park Estates was incorporated by LeRoy Sargent of St. Petersburg, Florida, A.Y. Arledge, a Hendersonville attorney, H. Walter Fuller of Bradenton, Florida, and Robert R. Reynolds of Hendersonville. Laurel Park Estates was chartered as "...a corporation authorized to own and operate property for residential, business, and amusement purposes, to construct and operate golf courses, polo fields, clubhouses, hotels, parks, and a transportation system between Hendersonville's Main Street and the development...".¹⁵ Authorized stock was 50,000 shares of preferred stock, valued at \$10.00 per share. Laurel Park Estates was developed as an exclusive residential area. Expanded plans included a nine-hole golf course, and the addition of many more house lots to the south and west, making it one of the largest land developments west of downtown Hendersonville.¹⁶ The canal that connected the two lakes was closed, and Lake Drive was built to replace it.¹⁷ The Laurel Park Highway was surveyed, graded and paved up the mountain to

¹¹ Barber, Jody and Bailey, Louise, Hendersonville and Henderson County- A Pictorial History, Donning Co., Norfolk, VA, 1998, p. 194.

¹² "Rhododendron Lake", Jump-Off Mountain Newsletter, Fall-Winter, 2009. This information about the early development of Laurel Park was taken from a March 1909 article in the *French Broad Hustler* newspaper, p. 3.

¹³ Ibid. Also 1910 plat of Laurel Park Estate.

¹⁴ Barber, Jody and Bailey, Louise, Hendersonville and Henderson County: A Pictorial History. Norfolk, Virginia: Donning Company, 1998, pp. 193-2006, 209; Fain, A Partial History of Henderson County. Arno Press, A New York Times Company, 1980, pp. 112-117; and Ray, Charles Lenoir, Postmarks. Chicago: Adams Press, 1970, pp. 181, 184-185.

¹⁵ Barber, Jody and Bailey, Louise, Hendersonville and Henderson County- A Pictorial History, Donning Co., Norfolk, VA, 1998, p. 193. It should be noted that in 1910 the development was called Laurel Park Estate, and in 1927 was called Laurel Park Estates.

¹⁶ Barber, Jody and Bailey, Louise, Hendersonville and Henderson County: A Pictorial History. Norfolk, Virginia: Donning Company, 1998, pp. 193-2006, 209; Fain, A Partial History of Henderson County. Arno Press, A New York Times Company, 1980, pp. 112-117; and Ray, Charles Lenoir, Postmarks. Chicago: Adams Press, 1970, pp. 181, 184-185.

¹⁷ Barber, Jody and Bailey, Louise, Hendersonville and Henderson County- A Pictorial History, Donning Co., Norfolk, VA, 1998, p. 199. The bed of the canal is still visible to the west side of Lake Drive, a depression topographically which is filled with grass and trees.

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Jump Off Rock. Additionally, a site was laid out for the Fleetwood Hotel, a large steel-frame resort hotel which was begun in 1924, but was never completed due to the stock market crash and subsequent failure of many real estate ventures, including Laurel Park.

The first town meeting for the new and expanded Laurel Park was held on June 25, 1924 at H. Walter Fuller's home. Laurel Park Estates, the largest and most extravagant development in the mid-1920s, had a very successful sales campaign in 1925. The organization set its 1926 goal for sales at seven million dollars. However, disaster struck hard even prior to the crash of 1929. Banks had lent their money to the limit in order to continue financing the speculative real estate activity. After struggling with a small success for a year to salvage something from the defaulted mortgages on vacant and occupied land, the banking activities were given up on November 20, 1930.¹⁸

In keeping with the influx of Florida real estate investors into the Hendersonville area in the early twentieth century, Kirkland (1882-1969) and Breta Singeltary of Bradenton, Florida, purchased eighty-five and one-half acres within Laurel Park Estate for speculative development from Isaac L. and Ava Lynes of New Orleans on October 31, 1911.¹⁹ A self-made man and conservationist, Mr. Singeltary was an entrepreneur, constructing five other summer houses in Laurel Park in the 1910s and early 1920s and a second summer home for his family in 1940.²⁰ Approximately twenty acres was kept as the location of the Singeltary's own summer home (the subject property) and the rest became the location of the other houses built by Kirkland on Echo Mountain. One of these houses was the H. Walter Fuller House, one of the developers of Laurel Park and a friend of Mr. Singeltary from Bradenton, which was built in 1922.²¹ Born in Wilson, North Carolina, in 1882, J. K. Singeltary was the youngest son of Lieutenant Colonel Richard W. Singeltary who had fought in the Civil War. In 1886, when Kirkland was only four years old, his father moved his family to Lady Lake, Florida. Typhoid fever was rampant at that time. Kirkland's mother died shortly after the move and his father died in July 1892. By the age of ten, Kirkland was an orphan living with various older siblings. He worked for H. Walter Fuller Sr. delivering groceries and selling ice. He also worked in a sawmill and later in a telegraph company. As a young man Kirkland attended Bingham Military Academy in Asheville, North Carolina. Colonel Bingham was a friend of his father's and was a big influence on him. During the summers and holidays while attending school, he visited nearby Hendersonville, North Carolina, staying in a boarding house that was owned by a Mr. Justus. After graduating from Bingham in 1906, he went to Kissimmee, Florida to live with his brother, George, and to work in a sawmill.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Henderson County Deed Book 71, p. 259.

²⁰ Singeltary, Joseph Kirkland Jr. Interviews by Roberta Reinert, August 29, 1999; September 29, 2005; June 3, 2008; and June 27, 2009.

²¹ Laurel Park Estate plat 1910 and Laurel Park Estates and Laurel Park, N.C. plat 1927.

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Mr. Singeltary's first business venture was a partnership in a grocery store in Bradenton, Florida. One of his partners was H. Walter Fuller Jr. who was also in real estate. A short time later, Singeltary bought his own sawmill in Kissimmee. He and his brother bought forested land for fifty cents per acre. (Later he sold the land for \$17.00 per acre. This land is where Disneyworld is now.) While staying in Kissimmee, Kirkland met and married his wife Breta Butler. They had their first child, Marion, in 1910. She became sick and was looked after by a physician named Dr. Leffingwell. The doctor did all he could for Marion and told Kirkland that Marion must get away from the Florida summer heat or she would die. Since Mr. Singeltary could not leave the lumberyard, he sent his wife Breta and daughter to Hendersonville for the summer.²² As quoted in his diary, "Marion had a miraculous cure and we started spending every summer here."²³

Kirkland Singeltary continued to be involved in real estate development in Florida beginning in the 1920s, building many commercial properties in downtown Bradenton along with residential sections in the west part of the city. Singeltary also started the Manatee River National Bank in Bradenton, Florida in 1925 where as president for over twenty-five years, he owned fifty-one percent.²⁴ In addition to his professional life, Mr. Singeltary was active in civic affairs in Bradenton, Florida, including serving on the city council from 1932 to 1937.²⁵

According to Singeltary's journal, the "...first Singeltary summer home in Hendersonville, North Carolina was a log cabin, built on the ruins of a much older burned-out cabin. It stood near Hebron Road and what would become Laurel Park Highway. The charred timbers of the original cabin were used to build a shed behind the kitchen. The original cabin had been owned by a mountain preacher with about fourteen children..."²⁶ The Singeltary-Reese-Robinson House, built as a summer home, was completed in 1912, with the stone chimney and some of the logs of the former cabin on the property re-used in the new house. Mr. Singeltary's journal also noted "...started log house on Mountain Echo, Hendersonville, NC in May 1912; we moved in early June..."²⁷ He also noted that "...we spent the summer of 1913 in the log house..."²⁸ The Singeltary family continued to summer in Laurel Park every year until Kirkland died in 1969.²⁹ He, his second wife Beth, and his grandfather are all buried in the cemetery at St. John in the Wilderness, Flat Rock, North Carolina where Kirkland's grandfather was the second rector.

²² Peck, Rodney M. *Indian Projectile Point: Types from Virginia and the Carolinas*. Rodney M. Peck: 1982, pp 7-27.

²³ Diary of Joseph Kirkland Singeltary, 1916.

²⁴ Singeltary, Joseph Kirkland Jr. Interviews by Roberta Reinert, August 29, 1999; September 29, 2005; June 3, 2008; and June 27, 2009.

²⁵ "J. K. Singeltary Dies At Age 86". *Hendersonville Times News*. October 1, 1969.

²⁶ Diary of Joseph Kirkland Singeltary, 1916.

²⁷ Diary of Joseph Kirkland Singeltary, 1916.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ "J. K. Singeltary Dies At Age 86". *Hendersonville Times News*. October 1, 1969.

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Singeltary did not own the house for very long, selling off portions of the property, a total of ten and three-eighths acres, between 1913 and 1917 to Reverend Arcemus Van Buren (1876-1960) and Mary J. Reese, and apparently building a second summer home in 1914 for his family one-tenth of a mile away, which still exists, but is not in the Rustic Revival style.³⁰ Born in 1876 near Marshall, North Carolina, in Madison County, A. V. Reese was one of nine siblings, the son of Rachel and Patterson Reese.³¹ On December 26, 1895, A. V. Reese married Mary Jones Burnette, and beginning in 1896 began his post-secondary education at nearby Mars Hill College in Madison County, studying to become a minister, and receiving his ordination in 1897.³² A.V. and Mary Reese had two children early on, Zollar and Edith (who died at age five).³³ A. V. Reese continued his preaching career at LaCrosse Missionary Baptist Church in LaCrosse, Florida, from June to September 1902, and moved that same year to the Oklahoma Territory to work as an Evangelistic Missionary.³⁴ Funds for his position were cut, however, and he then returned to work in Crawfordville, Florida, as pastor of the Crawfordville First Baptist Church.³⁵ The Reeses had three more children, Izorah, Otto, and Arcemus Van Buren Jr. from 1903 to 1909.³⁶ The Reeses lived in Crawfordville for a while, but A.V. Reese also worked for a few months at a new church in Hendersonville, North Carolina, the Mount Crystal Baptist Church which was completed on December 14, 1913. Reverend Reese liked the area so much that he bought ten acres from J. K. Singeltary in nearby Laurel Park that same year and moved his family there.³⁷ Much of the land was in apple orchards and there was a house, clear spring, a spring house, and a barn on the property. The family lived there year-round until 1932.³⁸

Likely due to the Depression, Reverend Reese lost the portion of the land with the house to the Consolidated Realty Corporation and sold the remaining acreage to Katie A. Sims and M. Slay in 1932.³⁹ Dr. Henry A. Robinson, the third owner of the house, bought the parcel with the house from Consolidated Realty Corporation on September 5, 1932, and the remaining acreage in 1935, 1938, and 1965 from Katie A. Sims, M. Slay, and the Laurel Park Land Company, Inc.⁴⁰ Dr. Robinson lived in Decatur, Georgia and bought the home as a summer residence for his family. This total acreage of 15.32 acres comprises all of the land still currently associated with the house, all of which was originally owned by J. K. Singeltary.

³⁰ Henderson County Deed Books 81, p. 193 (this is the parcel containing the house); 94, p. 65; and 98, p. 180. Also J. K. Singeltary Jr. interview with Roberta Reinert August 29, 1999 and September 29, 2005.

³¹ "Rees Genealogy", Volume 6, November-December 1978, p. 48.

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid, p. 49.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid, p. 50.

³⁶ Ibid, p. 51.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Henderson County Deed Books 201, p. 266; 211, p. 7; 200, p. 114.

⁴⁰ Henderson County Deed Books 201, p. 266; 211, p. 23; 212, p. 37; 225, p. 52; and 432, p. 93. The parcel purchased in 1965 appears in Henderson County Deed Book 432, p. 93.

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Dr. Henry Allen Robinson (1901 – 1981) was born in Augusta, Georgia, the son of William Morrison and Minnie Allen Robinson. He graduated from high school in Augusta, and then received his degree in mathematics in 1921 from the University of Georgia. He went on for his master's and doctorate degrees in math at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Robinson taught for a year at Texas Agricultural & Mechanical College and then was hired at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia, as head of the mathematics department in 1926, a position he held until his retirement in 1971. A veteran of World War II, Dr. Robinson served at Fort McPherson during the war helping to place soldiers into new assignments. In 1942 he was transferred to the United States Military Academy where he taught math to the cadets during the war years. After the war he returned to Agnes Scott College, as noted above. Dr. Robinson married Roberta Howard Videtto (1901 – 1993) on June 17, 1921. She too was born in Augusta, Georgia, and attended school there, including the Fortin School of Music. Mrs. Robinson attended Cox College in Atlanta, Georgia, and played as a concert violist with the Atlanta Symphony. She also served as regent of the Georgia Society of Mayflower Descendants and was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The Robinsons had three children, Anne Robinson Lane, Henry Allen Robinson Jr. and Roberta Robinson Reinert.⁴¹

On October 23, 1973, the property was deeded to the three children of Henry A. and Roberta V. Robinson, Henry Allen Robinson Jr., Roberta Robinson Fear, and Anne Robinson Lane.⁴² Roberta Robinson Fear Reinert and husband Price Lewis Reinert, the current owners, purchased 14.63 acres of the property from family members on September 21, 1999.⁴³ In 2002, they purchased an additional .9 acre from the Singeltary estate, which had remained in the family, making the current property 15.32 acres.⁴⁴ The house is currently occupied year-round.

Architecture Context

The Singeltary-Reese-Robinson House, built in 1912 in the Rustic Revival style, is one of only a handful of buildings in the Laurel Park area designed in this architectural style. The first use of the Rustic Revival style in the United States can be seen in the cottages of the Adirondacks in New York, dating from the final two decades of the nineteenth century. These cottages, which featured native materials in a natural setting, influenced building in the mountains of western North Carolina where native materials could be found in abundance.⁴⁵ Rustic Revival architecture gained in popularity in western North Carolina in the late nineteenth century as railroads arrived and the summer visitors increased. Tourism in western North Carolina, in the first decades of the twentieth century, was a big business, as more people were able to travel easily to the mountains. Many of these tourists built summer homes, some of them in the Rustic Revival style, an architecture that drew its inspiration from the mountains. Popular in resort

⁴¹ Reinert, Roberta. Interview with Sybil H. Argintar, November 12, 2009.

⁴² Henderson County Deed Book 514, pp. 19 and 49.

⁴³ Henderson County Deed Book 1006, p. 76.

⁴⁴ Henderson County Deed Book 1111, p. 166.

⁴⁵ Hood, Davyd Foard. "Cabin Ben", National Register nomination, 2003, p. 8-11.

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communities such as Laurel Park and throughout the mountains of western North Carolina in the early decades of the twentieth century, the style was meant to blend into the mountain setting, featuring natural, rustic materials available in the mountains such as stone, dark-stained round log walls, often combined with shingle or board and batten siding, tree trunks used for porch supports, stone foundations, and simple, unadorned interiors, sometimes including rustic balustrades, stone mantels, and flush board, log, or beaded board walls. The buildings in the rustic style were carefully placed within the mountain landscape with great care taken to blend them into their natural surroundings. Roads and fencing materials carefully followed the natural topography, and buildings were set upon natural hillsides or valleys so as to make the least impact on the environment.

Other Rustic Revival houses built within Laurel Park include Gingerbread House (1898) at the corner of Woodbine and Laurel Park Highway, with its half-timbered front gables, rolled eaves, eyelid dormers, log walls, and log porch supports, and two others, 117 and 119 Lake Drive.⁴⁶ The house at 117 Lake Drive, built ca. 1937 and located at the southeast corner of Lake Drive and Rustic Drive, is a two-story, front-gable house with round log walls with concrete chinking on the second level, stone walls on the first, and a second-story porch with tree-trunk porch posts, and a rustic porch railing, possibly an in-kind replacement. There is an exterior front single shoulder granite chimney with a notable round stone in the upper portion. The house at 119 Lake Drive, facing west onto Lake Drive and also built ca. 1937, by the brother of the owner of 117 Lake Drive, while identical in most respects to the adjacent house, has a shed-roof porch on the first floor with round log rafters, posts, and roof supports. Both of these houses are sited up on hillsides, with stone stairs leading to the front entryway, and both have log garages at the rear, dating from the time of the house. While Gingerbread House combines the Rustic Revival with Tudor Revival features, the other two houses are built more purely in the Rustic Revival style, featuring many of the same features as the Singeltary-Reese-Robinson House such as dark-stained round logs, stone foundations, and stone chimneys. However, they are much later examples of the style than the Singeltary-Reese-Robinson House, having been built during a later period of the style in the mountains. All of these buildings retain a great deal of their architectural integrity, with the main change to Gingerbread House being the addition of sliding glass doors opening onto a patio at the rear, and the newer porch as noted on 117 Lake Drive. The Singeltary-Reese-Robinson House changes include in-kind replacement of front porch materials, change in roof covering materials, and the addition at the rear. Despite these changes, the house still retains a high degree of architectural integrity on the exterior and the interior, including its setting and outbuildings. Additionally, as noted above, the Rustic Revival style was most popular in the western North Carolina mountains beginning in the late 1910s into the 1920s and 1930s, making the Singeltary-Reese-Robinson House a particularly early example of the style.

⁴⁶ Bishir, Catherine W., Michael T. Southern, and Jennifer F. Martin. *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina*. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: The University of North Carolina Press, 1999, p. 315. Gingerbread House was surveyed in 1980. 117 and 119 Lake Drive were surveyed in April 2010, for the current nomination.

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The Singeltary-Reese-Robinson House and barn are early buildings constructed in the Rustic Revival style and they are a deliberate re-creation of the vernacular log tradition of the North Carolina mountains. They exhibit features of the style, including the re-use of older dovetail-notched, hewn logs in the barn, the round notched logs with concrete chinking on the house, the weatherboards in the gable ends and simple unadorned window surrounds. The house's foundation, single-shoulder chimney, and mantel, all of stone, are additional features typical of the style, with stone likely gathered on site when the house was built. The original interior floor plan is very simple; the front block is a single, open living room with an open staircase at one end, and the dining room is in the rear ell. Singeltary also retained the mid-nineteenth-century springhouse building constructed of smaller hewn logs, which stood near the spring downhill from the house. Dr. Robinson moved the springhouse up the hill to stand near the house where it was used as a playhouse. All three buildings together show the ingenuity of the original owner and builder, the availability of natural materials, and the blending of the built environment with the mountain setting, all important tenets of the Rustic Revival philosophy.

Elsewhere in Henderson County there are additional examples of the use of the Rustic Revival style, primarily at religious retreat centers or summer camps. Some of these include the cottages at Kanuga Conference Center, also dating from within the first decade of the twentieth century. Designed by renowned architect Richard Sharp Smith, the architectural features include board and batten and shingle siding, screened porches, and large windows.⁴⁷ Other examples using the Rustic Revival style include the buildings at Camp Mondamin and some of the earliest cabins at Camp Arrowhead, both in the Tuxedo area. Other examples of the style in western North Carolina include the James John Baldwin House (1925) as well as several other cottages, including Cabin Ben in Highlands (1932), the early cottages and other camp buildings at Camp Arrowhead in Tuxedo, Henderson County (1919-1946), and the William Nelson Camp Jr. House in Fairview, Buncombe County (ca. 1926).

⁴⁷Ibid, p. 316.

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Section 10

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is shown by a solid dark line on the accompanying survey map at a scale of 1" = 133'.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes 15.32 acres of the original twenty acres set aside as the house lot by the Singeltary family which has historically been associated with the property.

(8-86)

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Singeltary-Reese-Robinson House Photographs

The following information applies to all photographs, except where noted.

Name of property:	Singeltary-Reese-Robinson House Laurel Park, Henderson County, North Carolina
Photographer:	Sybil H. Argintar
Date of photos:	September 2009
Location of original digital images:	Division of Archives and History, One Village Lane, Asheville, North Carolina 28803

1. Setting and northeast corner, view southwest.
2. Façade and rear addition, view west.
3. North elevation, view southwest.
4. Detail of log walls.
5. South elevation and addition, view north.
6. South elevation of addition, view northwest.
7. Living room, view north.
8. Dining room, view southwest.
9. Second story bedroom, view southeast.
10. Springhouse, view southwest.
11. Barn, view northeast.
12. Garage apartment, view southwest.
13. Documentary photo, ca. 1937. Scanned from the current owner's archive